

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pacific Regional Office
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
<http://pacific.fws.gov>

News Release



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Contact: Pat Durham (202) 204-4133 or Joan Jewett (503) 231-6121

Regional Director Issues Call for Proposals to Pacific Tribes for Grants to Conserve Fish and Wildlife on Tribal Lands

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today issued a request for proposals from federally recognized Tribes to conserve and recover endangered, threatened and at-risk species and other wildlife on Tribal lands under the Tribal Landowner Incentive (TLIP) and Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) programs.

“There are over 160 Federally recognized Tribes in the Pacific Region and much of this tribal land is relatively undisturbed, providing a significant amount of rare and important fish and wildlife habitat.” says Regional Director Dave Allen. “The Tribal Wildlife Grant Program provides an opportunity for us to strengthen our relationships with the Tribes while supporting the Tribe’s efforts to conserve habitat for imperiled and often culturally significant species on tribal land.”

In the two years since their inception, almost \$6 million have been awarded to Tribes in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada. These previously awarded grants support projects such as comprehensive surveys of plant and vertebrate fish and wildlife on reservation lands, the establishment of data bases and baseline data, habitat and fish restoration projects, fish passage projects and dam removals and development of new resource management techniques. Some of the species benefitting from these projects include sage grouse, elk, lamprey, pygmy rabbits, and bighorn sheep. Some of these projects include: The Old Woman Mountain Preserve Program awarded to the Twenty Nine Palms Tribe of California; the Shrub Steppe Rehabilitation and Management Project awarded to the Yakama Tribe of Washington; and the Railroad Valley Springfish Critical Habitat Restoration Project awarded to the Duckwater Tribe of Nevada.

Grants in the two programs are awarded through a competitive process. TWG, in fiscal year 2005, has \$ 5,917,000 available for grants that will benefit wildlife and its habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. Although matching funds will be considered as an indicator of Tribal commitment to a project, they are not required for these grants. The maximum award under this program is \$250,000.

In fiscal year 2005, TLIP has \$ 2,126,000 available for federally recognized Indian Tribes to address protection, restoration and management of habitat to benefit species at risk, including federally listed endangered or threatened species, as well as proposed or candidate species. Up to 75 percent of the costs associated with each project funded under this program may be covered by Federal funds. The maximum award under this program is \$150,000.

The request for proposals was published in the February 3, 2005 *Federal Register*. All TWG and TLIP Grant Applications must be postmarked by April 4, 2005. Grant application kits may be obtained by visiting the Pacific Region's website at <http://pacific.fws.gov/ea/tribal/> or by contacting the Service's Regional Native American Liaison, Scott Aikin, at (503) 231-6123.

Additional information about all FWS grant programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.grants.fws.gov>. The CFDA number for Tribal Landowner Incentive grants is 15.638 and 15.639 for Tribal Wildlife grants.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.